



#4  
\$2.75

# Action Girl

## COMICS

FEATURING THE  
TALENTS OF:

SARAH  
DYER

ELIM  
MAK

KRIS  
DRESEN

ELIZABETH  
WATASIN

JESSICA  
ABEL

AND MORE!



# Action Girl

## COMICS

*Voilà!* You have discovered *le quatrième numéro de ActionDemoselle!* Thank you so much for picking it up! For any first-timers, *Action Girl Comics* is basically an anthology showcasing female cartoonists. AGC has an all-ages sensibility, and is girl-positive and female-friendly — but never anti-boy. As far as content — well, it is actually closer to zine than a typical comic — it is wholly my comic, not some publisher's collection of stuff. The material contained in this book is hand-picked by me and will always reflect my sensibilities. But the most important facet of *Action Girl* is accessibility. Inclusion, not exclusion, that's my goal. So please enjoy, no matter who or what you are!

For those of you who read issue three *carefully*, you may have expected to see Carolyn Ridsdale's 3rd story for AGC this issue. Yes, I know I said she was going to be here, but by the time her story arrived from Amsterdam, it had grown from 3 to 7 pages!! So I had to do a little shuffling and move it back to issue #5. (For more information on issue #5, see page 22.)

"Action Girl ees everywhair!" It almost seems like it these days. Issue #2 was covered in the June issue of *Spin*, and issue #3 was pictured and briefly mentioned in a bogus trendwatching article in *Newsweek* recently. (The story was picked up in the international editions, too! I got a copy in Japanese — "Akushon Garu", they call it.) I was interviewed for but will probably be cut from articles for both *Wizard* and *Entertainment Weekly* — and the sad thing is, sales are barely going up. Not only does the comic industry not care about coverage in the real world, the real world just can't get worked up about comics. It's all up to you loyal readers — convince your store to get extra to keep on the shelf (AGC seems to sell out everywhere, but never gets re-ordered!), tell your friends who

SEND LETTERS, COMMENTS, SUBMISSIONS  
AND PRESENTS OF SANRIO TO:

SARAH DYER, AGC

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would like it....and this goes for every comic you like, not just this one.

See last issue's editorial for the big comic industry rant...but let me say again that readers need to become active consumers. Make sure retailers order those books you want. Become aware of what's coming out. There is absolutely no book that a retailer cannot get for you. If they claim they cannot, they are either lazy or lying. This may sound harsh, but with very few exceptions, it's the truth. If a shop will not order certain books for you, take your business elsewhere — all of it. Put your money into a shop that will cater to you as a customer. That's what retailers are supposed to do.

To change the subject entirely — a lot of people in comics are online these days, and for those of you on AOL, there is a comics forum. It's just that no-one seems to know about it. Type in keyword "Science Fiction" (nice ghettoization, don'tcha think?) and select the line "Star Trek/Comics/TV/Star Wars Boards". To heck with Image, select "General Interest Comics Boards" first. You'll find subjects from the mainstream to the obscure, including folders for Slave Labor, Milk & Cheese, and Action Girl! (I hear from someone almost every day who didn't know there was such a thing on AOL.)

Thanks go to all the usual suspects, plus special thanks to a group of swell guys (see page 24), and of course, YOU! My obligatory "soundtrack" for this issue includes — Stereolab (*Mars Audiac Quintet*), Sergio Mendes and Brasil '66 (*Equinox*), Maria Callas (*La Divina*, vols. 1-3) WFMU (91.1 FM), and Cub. Cover totally by me. Look for the fabulous fifth (1st birthday) issue in mid-October!

— xxoxo, Sarah

**CALLING MR. FLOWERS!** THANKS SO MUCH TO EVERYONE WHO FOUND INFORMATION FOR ME ON DON FLOWERS, "CUTE-GIRL" CARTOONIST EXTRAORDINAIRE. BUT I STILL NEED MORE! FLOWERS (WHO DREW THE GAL BELOW) DID A DAILY PANEL CALLED "MODEST MAIDENS" FOR ASSOCIATED PRESS FROM 1930-1945, THEN MOVED TO KING FEATURES AND DID "GLAMOUR GIRLS" FOR THEM FROM THEN ON INTO THE 60s. HIS STUFF HAS ALSO BEEN COLLECTED IN SEVERAL 60s CARTOON ANTHOLOGY BOOKS. IF YOU COME ACROSS COPIES OF SAID BOOKS, INTERVIEWS, PANELS TO XEROX OR ANYTHING ELSE, I'D BE EVER SO GRATEFUL IF YOU PASSED THEM ON TO ME!!



**Action Girl Comics #4 — July 18, 1995** Created and edited by Sarah Dyer. Published by Slave Labor Graphics. President: Dan "Sanchez" Vado; Publisher: Craig "My Hero" Pape. Action Girl title and character © & ™ 1995 Sarah Dyer. All contents © 1995 by the respective artists and writers. No part of this magazine may be reproduced, except for purposes of review. Any similarity to persons living or dead is satirical in nature or a shocking and total coincidence. **Printed in Canada.**



# Action Girl

IN: DRESS CODE  
STORY BY SARAH DYER  
ART BY ELIM NAK

GHOST  
PLANET  
CLUB



DID YOU SEE THAT GIRL WITH THE *THING* THROUGH THE BRIDGE OF HER NOSE?

WHY DOESN'T SHE JUST GO AHEAD AND PIERCE HER *EYEBALL*!

HA HA HA



HEY, SHE MADE IT AFTER ALL!

HEY, JENNA, WHY DIDN'T YOU CHANGE AFTER SCHOOL? YOU CAN'T ENJOY RUNNING AROUND IN UNIFORM--



I DIDN'T HAVE TIME, I WAS FINISHING SOMETHING --

OOH, A NEW GADGET --  
-- A RING!



IT'S A SIGNAL RING! SEE, YOU JUST PUSH IN BOTH --

OW! WELL, IT'S JUST THE PROTOTYPE.

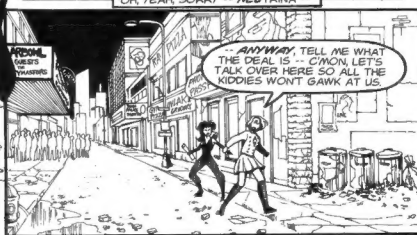


SO, ERICA, WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AROUND IN (AHEM) UNIFORM TONIGHT?

I'M COMFORTABLE! AND, THERE MIGHT BE TROUBLE.

YEAH, I THINK THERE JUST MIGHT BE.

"WHO IS *THAT*?!"





SO, WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM, TRINA?

MY PROBLEM? WHAT'S YOURS? WHY DON'T YOU STOP BUTTING INTO EVERYONE'S BUSINESS!

COME ON, I CAN SEE YOU'RE SPOILING FOR A FIGHT, AND THERE ARE TOO MANY KIDS IN THERE -- IF YOU HURT SOMEONE BY ACCIDENT YOU'LL BE SORRY.



NO, SUGARBOWL'S GOING TO BE SORRY! NOT ME!

WHAT DID THEY DO TO YOU?



DON'T YOU PAY ATTENTION TO ANYTHING IN THE REAL WORLD? THEY SIGNED TO K&D RECORDS!

SOT



AFTER EVERYTHING THEY SAID ABOUT CORPORATIONS! ALL THAT "CORPORATE ROCK SUCKS" BUSINESS!

WELL, MAYBE IT WAS A DISTRIBUTION THING -- BE-SIDES, ANYONE CAN CHANGE THEIR MINDS. THEIR MUSIC'S STILL THE SAME, RIGHT?



... BUT THAT'S NOT THE WORST THING! AFTER ALL THAT TALK ABOUT "OUR RIGHTS" AND ALL THEIR PRO-FEMINIST RHETORIC --

-- THEY DID AN AD FOR PARADISE SODA! AND EVERYBODY KNOWS THE OWNERS OF PARADISE FUND ANTI-CHOICE INC.!!



HMMM... WELL, YEAH, THAT'S MORE THAN SLIGHTLY HYPOCRITICAL MAYBE THEY DIDN'T KNOW -- BUT YOU'RE RIGHT, THEY SHOULD HAVE CHECKED THINGS OUT. BUT YOU'RE STILL NOT GOING IN THERE!

OH, PLEASE -- YOU DON'T HAVE REAL POWERS! AND I HAVE ATOMIC BLASTS! MOVE IT!

OH, TRINA, I'M SOO SCARED.

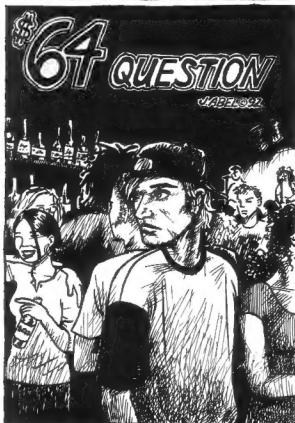








I KNOW THAT LOOK.



IT'S THE SAME LOOK I GET WHEN I'M TOUCHING WHAT I MOST WANT, BUT CAN'T HAVE.

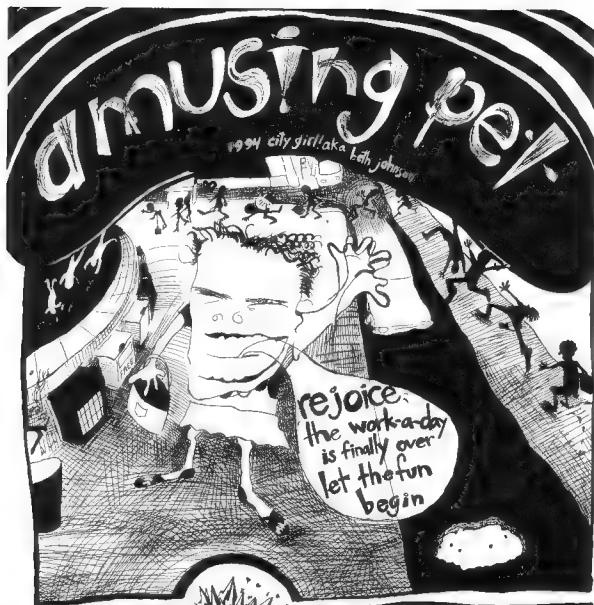
I SLIDE MY EYES PAST YOUR GAZE, TRYING TO AVOID MEANINGFUL GLANCES, PRETENDING I DON'T NOTICE, BUT I DO.



I ONLY WONDER WHETHER YOU LOVE ME BECAUSE I DON'T WANT YOU, OR I DON'T WANT YOU BECAUSE YOU LOVE ME.

# DRACULA GETS STOOD UP!







# Tobey ♥ Fanboys

A REPLY TO THOSE OF  
YOU WHO THINK I LIVE  
ONLY TO TORTURE YOU  
SNIVELING, PATHETIC-  
OOPS...SORRY!(HA-HA...)

NOW, REGARDING MY FIRST  
'FANBOY' PAGE (SEE 'ACTION  
GIRL' #3), BEFORE YOU THINK  
THE WORST OF ME, LET ME  
JUST SAY THIS: SOME OF  
MY BEST FRIENDS ARE  
**FANBOYS**



NOW, BRIAN, FOR EXAMPLE  
MAY SPEND MORE TIME IN  
A COMIC SHOP THAN ON  
HIS PERSONAL HYGIENE,  
BUT I STILL LET HIM SIT  
ON MY FURNITURE!



AND I'M SO HAPPY FOR  
MARK - HE MANAGED TO  
LAND A GREAT GIRLFRIEND.  
EVEN THOUGH HE WOULD  
RATHER READ A COMIC  
THAN ACTUALLY HAVE SEX!



JIM HERE HAS A HEART  
OF GOLD, SO I IGNORE  
THE FACT THAT HE SENDS  
FAN MAIL TO JOHN ROMITA.



"SPACE" TRIES TO COVER  
UP HIS FANBOY-NESS  
WITH A 'HEAVY METAL'  
LOOK. I JUST PLAY ALONG.



AND RALPH IS A BIG-  
SHOT COMIC-BOOK ARTIST,  
BUT I DON'T RESPECT  
HIM ANY LESS FOR THAT.



LAST BUT NOT LEAST...  
I'M MARRIED TO THE  
BIGGEST FANBOY IN THE  
WHOLE WORLD!



SEE, LIKE I SAID, SOME  
OF MY BEST FRIENDS  
ARE FANBOYS!



# b o d y o l o g y

nude  
naked

no

possess  
objectify  
worship

breasts  
hips  
thighs

full  
curvaceous  
sensual

torture  
mutilate  
rape

ashamed  
unsatisfied

accept

touch  
taste  
feel

powerful

beautiful

mine

# ACTION GIRL

## plays Dress-Up!

a cut and color activity page - #3 in a series. you will need: your favorite crayons or markers, and safety scissors. you might want to xerox the page first, and hey, maybe even put it on some thin cardboard. originally ran in the Action Girl Mini-Zine #1.

the con girl real if!!  
dya think Brisco County'd ask me out?

semi-bouffant blonde wig (did you know it's "blonde" for guys, "blonde" for girls on a for us?)

holster for stashing extra candy this week - jelly beans

"oh give me land, lots of land, under starry skies above, I don't fence me in..."

actually, I hate westerns. Except ~~Wild Wild West~~. And I don't think it counts.

ACTION GIRL is... Dale Gribble, wonder what it's like living with a guy who had his horse stuffed. I'd insist on cremation for myself, I think.

the fringy skirt and vest match, but you figured that out, I bet

Yeehaw! Cowboy boots again! (to tell the truth, I've never owned a pair! I tried some on in Goodwill once...)

action girl is pretending she is not COLD by imaging herself at the sea shore

she imagines her hair is stiff with saltwater and seafoam

She wishes she was wearing a Fifties bathing suit "bikinis? BLEH!"

She wishes she was not shivering

ACTION GIRL is beat. she is so beat. she is BEAT GIRL.

snap! snap!

pixie cut like Jean Seberg

that too-much hairspray source look

ah yes, but jewelry. How... gloomy.

ACTION GIRL is gothic. she is more macabre than Morticia Addams. More morbid than Lydia Deetz. She is in touch with the dark side. Clouds are gathering over your head as you read this.

big floppy sweater, screams "sensitive artist"

daddy's

tres soigne!

those essential black capri pants

those essential bongos!

I AM GONE. SO GONE...

by ©1994 Sarah Dyer

Colors: BLACK! BLACK! MY SOUL!! SOB!

←wacky spider cape-thing. Maybe a little gray would be nice here to perk up the color scheme.

Is it an artho hem or ready to be planted?

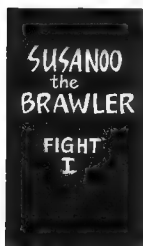
←that essential book

those essential ballet flats

those essential bongos!

I AM GONE. SO GONE...

by ©1994 Sarah Dyer







SLAM



DING  
DONG



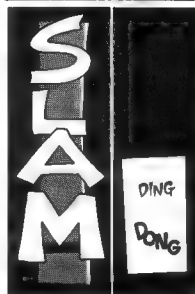
THUMP  
(scuffle)  
BAP  
THUMP



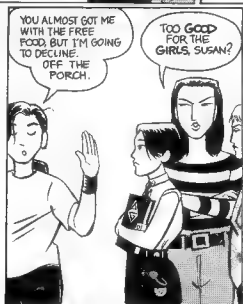
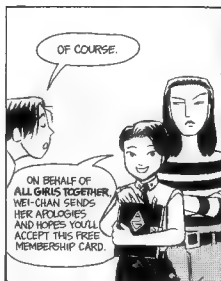


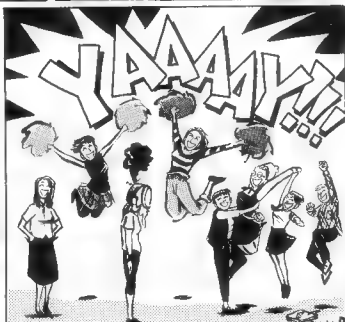
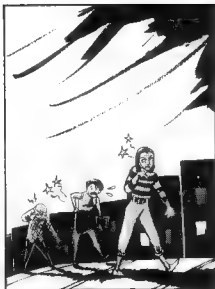
thump  
scuffi..  
BAP











# Your Hostesses:



**Sarah Dyer** (cover, "Dress Code" & "Action Girl Plays Dress-Up" — well, it is *my* comic) is an eternally over-worked, Coca-Cola- and Sanrio-addicted transplant to New York. Her work has appeared in *Disney Adventures*, on the Cartoon Network, on various

low-selling CD covers and more places you'll never see. For a catalog of all of Sarah's self-publishing (including: the music/essay zine *Mad Planet*; the personal *Kikizine*; and all the components of the *Action Girl* empire) send a SASE to the address inside the cover.



**Elim Mak** ("Dress Code") lives in New York with her cat Chibi and is on a life-long quest to achieve the balance between being a monk and being a warrior. She has done penciling work for Milestone, Valiant, and Broadway comics. She also

produced the mini-comic *Wanton Soup* in 1990-92.



**Sarah Thornton** ("Dracula Gets Stood Up") was born in NYC and started doing comics in high school for the amusement of her friends. Her work has since appeared in *Garbles*, *Rocktober*, and *Sassy* (among others). She is presently at work on a graphic novel about the adventures of "Cilla the Magnetic Horse-Boy" and others which will be serialized in a few zines and will be available from her after Sept. 1st. Her own mini-comic, *Lumpophilia* is available from her for \$1 + 2 stamps; and "Cilla" will be the same price. Write to: Sarah Thornton, 2118 Pillsbury Ave So. #18, Minneapolis MN 55404



**Jessica Abel** ("\$64 Question") lives in Chicago and self-publishes *Artbabe*, also known as *L'Artbébé* and *Kunstmädel* in some parts of the world. She has a small quantity of *Artbabe* #2 left, and plenty of #3, so please send \$2 (ppd) for each issue to:

Jessica Abel, 1573 N. Milwaukee, #423, Chicago, IL 60622. She also has a few 7" singles of her band, *Bender*, which include a six-page comic, for \$4.

**Beth Johnson** ("Amusing Pet")

grew up with her twin sister, Laura, and an assortment of domestic cats and woodland creatures in Fairfax VA. As a child she loved to draw portraits of celebrities like Cher. She has several mini-comics available, including *Sweet Love* (\$1, "poetry" comics and metallic foil); *Ew That's Gross* (\$1, goofy gross glow-in-the-dark tales); and *ESP* (\$1, Buzzcocks homage); from 1644 Monroe St NW, WDC 20010.



**Kris Dresen** ("Bodyology")

and frequent collaborator Jen Benka recently were awarded a Xeric grant for their fine mini *Manya*. She's also the co-founder of *Vagabond* press, from which you can procure some more of her work, including minis *Manya*, *Harsh* and a selection of "poetry" minis. Send \$3 for *Manya* or \$2 for *Harsh*, or all of the poetry minis, or just send a postcard to get a catalog from: *Vagabond Press*, 2300 N. Clybourn Ave., Suite #2, Chicago IL 60614.



**Chris Tobey** ("Tobey ♥

Fanboys") lives with her husband and cats in either New Jersey or California. Her work has appeared in *Robin Three: A Sticky Jam Session*, *Little Bitty Brian*, *Duck Butter Funnies*, and *Eater Rules: The Best of Duck Butter*. Known to suffer from sugar overdoses, she spends the better part of her time spoiling her cats and obsessing over *Animaniacs* (and goofing around on AOL).



**Elizabeth Watasin**

("Susanoo the Brawler") is a professional artist living in L.A. All she wants to do is daydream the live long days away and make being forlorn an art form. And watch cartoons. Her own mini-comic, *Adventures of A-Girl* (issues 1-3, plus *A-Girl Etc!*, a compilation of reader's cartoons) is available for \$1 ppd each from Elizabeth at: 120 So. San Fernando Blvd #231, Burbank, CA 91502.



# Further Reading:

I've actually got more to recommend than I have room for, for once -- so let's get to it...

**Mini-comics:** As you should know, most of *Action Girl Comic*'s contributors are self-publishing (you can get info on how to order their own work in their bios). But there's lots of great minis out there -- one mini I was going to list anyway (before she became a contributor) is Sarah Thornton's *Lumpophilia* (send \$1 + 2 stamps to: 2118 Pillsbury Ave S. #18, Minneapolis MN 55404). It's full-sized and features several strips starring "Lumpo, the human dough man" plus a lot of different work, especially the great "Flame-Red in NYC", a story I can really relate to...her style is somewhere comfortably in between art and narrative, and should appeal to most. Leanne Franson is back from the UK with a new *Liliane* comic at last, collecting more "odds'n ends of" *Liliane* strips. She promises new full-length stories soon -- in the meantime, send \$1.50 for this installment to: PO Box 274, Succ. Place du Parc, Montréal Québec, H2W 2N8, CANADA.

**Not-so-mini comics:** Our own Patty Leidy has a collection of all her Zero Hour strips plus lots of newer stories out now -- *Catfight* is published by Dog Soup, has a fabulous color cover (front and back) by Patty and should be in stores now. *Blue Hole* is a new book by the amazing Miss Christine Shields (regularly featured in *Flatter!*) Like Sarah Thornton, she sits squarely on the line between art and narrative, (which not many people seem able to pull off, usually falling into the "arty abyss," never to be understood by the typical comic reader)...*Naughty Bits* is cranking out like clockwork and is up to #16 -- the current storyline (15 & 16 so far) is about Bitchy Bitch's days in college (in 1970) and, as a self-contained storyline, is probably a little more accessible to a new reader (although the reprint paperback would also make a nice gift for a *Naughty Bits* neophyte). *Oh...* has transformed from an anthology/magazine format to a quarterly all-comics format, showcasing one artist per issue. #9, *Tomboy*, features the hysterically funny Dianne Reum's pieces about the horrors of enforced home perms, skirts, and the like, and is a must-find.

**Girl-friendly by guys:** besides the perennials *Love & Rockets* and *Pirate Corp.\$!/Hectic Planet*, there's always a nice crop of work by guys (or co-ed teams) that is interesting and relevant to women. The last few months have found me reading: *Very Vicky* #8 (Meet Danny Ocean) -- while a little hard to come to in the middle of the story, a very funny series about a very hep girl...and what other comic has its own drink and dance step, I ask you? Get 'em all in one fell swoop. I picked up DC's *The Power of Shazam* now that they've introduced Mary Marvel -- some of the "updating" doesn't quite work for me, but the book's great compared to most of what I find. Think of it as in a class with early 70's comics and you'll enjoy it just fine. And the big news is Hayao Miyazaki's *Nausicaä* is about to conclude at last. A new reprint series has begun, while at the same time the old (mostly out-of-print) series is being completed for those that own it. And the last series will begin coming out (from Viz) anytime now. This is one of the all-time best girl series by anyone, so start picking it up from whatever point you need to, whether it's the beginning or the end...

**From the quarter bin:** We haven't been hitting too many cons or back-issue shops lately, so I haven't found too much excitement from the back issue bins to report. I did discover an entire series I'd never heard of from the 80's called *Amethyst, Princess of Gemworld* which I was really entertained by! The main character is a teenage girl who in a sort-of parallel universe is the long-lost Princess Amethyst, and the book is pretty much a fantasy series...I've found most of the 3 different tries they had at the character -- any issue that Ernie Colón drew is worth picking up, and I would especially recommend the first, 12-part mini-series. It looks goofy, but it's really worthwhile. I also finally got an issue of the *Ms. Tree Quarterly* (#2) from 1990 which people are always telling me about. Female detective characters are pretty rare, so I thought I'd give it a try, and I thought it was pretty cool. Even better (although you probably won't find this cheap yet) is the *Modesty Blaise* paperback that came out last year -- I just found it myself and thought it was great. Drawn by Dick Giordano (the fab artist on my favorite Wonder Woman issues -- the "New" WW in her 4 years of mod-era hipness), who in his 70s can still draw rings around most artists today. Based on a long-running British strip I know virtually nothing about, it's basically your late 60's cool-jazz, secret gadget, mod-fashion, spy sort of thing. I guess it wasn't quite right for the nineties, but if you like cool girl characters and spy movies, you'll really dig this. Speaking of the New WW, I'm still looking for sporadic issues (between 178 & 205) so if you know where any are...please drop me a line!



## Next Issue:

Issue five will be the 1st Birthday Issue, oh boy, amazing, huh? Featuring an incredibly cute Halloween-motif cover by Patty Leidy, and containing Carolyn Riddale's story intended for this issue along with work by Patty Leidy, Beth Johnson, Leanne Franson, moi, and many more.... Ask your comic shop to pre-order it for you! (Tip: Flying Girl returns in issue #6!) Need back issues? Ask your shop to get them or order direct from Slave Labor Graphics (see info, inside back cover)! Until next time --

♥ Sarah



# Action Mail

Sarah Dyer, POB 060380  
Staten Island, NY 10306  
e-mail: alilena@aol.com

Sarah —  
I wish more comic were like Action Girl — witty and fun, yet not fluff; interesting and, yes, agenda-driven, but inclusive and engaging. You choose really diverse contributors who somehow coalesce. The variety of strips has impressed me, from 2's "don't" to the over-the-top "I Was a Terrorist for Jesus" to the beautiful "Mortality" — so far, my vote for the best short of the year. Have you done any actual Action Girl stories? I'd love to see your narrative "take" on her — though I could survive on nothing else than the paper dolls and be happy. I think that "hookers" is just about right to describe how much guy-drawn "super-heroines" look; if anything, your "guy-drawn" AG costume didn't go far enough — there's still far too much fabric to be authentic :).

— Gene Kannenberg

Gene; as you can see, my own Action Girl stories begin with this issue (although Elizabeth's will continue too). Hope you enjoyed it, 'cause I'll probably be inflicting lots more on you!

Hallo —

I just wanted to write you a note to tell you how much I love Action Girl! It's an amazingly cool comic, and I really like your "pro-girl, but boy-friendly" approach. That's how all feminists should be, in my opinion. I'm glad there's a project like Action Girl out there...it's hard enough to find cool female role models as it is, and this just makes it a little easier.

A little about me...I'm a 15 year old girl, in tenth grade, living in San Juan, Puerto Rico. I've liked just about everything I've seen in the first two issues of Action Girl, but I've especially liked the stuff involving Action Girl directly (the "activity page", the story in the second issue, etc.). Finally, a female superhero who actually looks like a female! Thanks for the inspiration!

Kiara Alvarez

Thank you, Kiara, and all the girls like you for the constant re-inspiration!

Just picked up the new issue of Action Girl Comics — congratulations on another great issue!

Very striking cover by you & Jessica. I really like AG's half-wistful Mona Lisa smile, and the subdued color scheme (when's the last time you saw salmon pink on a comic book cover?). Simple, elegant, and effective: it really stood out among the garishly-colored, overly-rendered comics surrounding it on the shelf.

I always enjoy your editorials and the "further readings" page — especially when you talk about strange/cool stuff you found in the quarter boxes! Yup, I've got those Supergirl and Lois Lane issues you talked about...are they a trip, or what? I recommend the Supergirl issues of "Superman Family", too (the 100-page giants) — Elliot S. Maggin

wrote some very nice character-oriented stories, plus you get all those truly weird Weisinger-era reprints!

Hmm... why WAS I so surprised to find out you were a Kirby fan? Gee, I dunno... he seems like such a "boy" artist, somehow. But he was definitely way ahead of the pack when it came to creating strong heroines. Medusa is a perfect example, and so is Big Barda — the only "superhero wife" I can think of who's actually stronger (and taller!) than her husband. Anyway, keep up the good work, and I'll be looking forward to #4! Best, J. Kevin Carrier

Kirby really created some of the best female characters — of course they're busy defiling them now. Have you noticed that Kirby also seems to be one of the only creators who could come up with good male-female relationships, too?

Hey Sarah,

Just wanted to drop you a line and tell you I enjoyed the latest issue. Action Girl is so refreshing. It's nice to see so much talent being displayed which just so happens to be all female. The attitude of the book isn't resentful towards the mostly male domination of this field which is also nice. Best of luck and I look forward to future issues later, Tyim Courts  
ps. i had to try to draw AG herself and the attached file is that attempt. hope you like. Thanks for the cool picture, Tyim (see below!)

HELLO SARAH-

I just have to tell you that your comic is the best thing going. I like so many things about it — where to begin? Well — first I appreciate the commentary. Your letter at the beginning of #3 was right on about how some companies (insert Marvel here) are ruining comics for ALL of us with their new distribution deal. My comics store has done pretty well about getting all the titles that I order. You're absolutely right — there's no reason that you shouldn't get what you want as the customer. Say good-bye to any store that won't do the extra work. My comics store has even offered to include room in its monthly newsletter for "alternative" comics. Yours is the first that I'll recommend.

AND the biggest thanks that I have for you are for the general "tone" — for lack of a better word — of your comic. You said in the first issue that you wanted to create a comic that was pro-female, suitable for all ages, and spoke to our post-punk

generation. You've succeeded on all counts. It's a big relief to have a comic that doesn't pander to the Generation X/Slacker media image. This is one of the few comics that I have to look through before I even leave the parking lot of the comic book store.

Susan Kent

p.s. I have to say that I usually hate to read a letter col with gushy letter after gushy letter — but I can't think of anything that deserves it more.

I'm glad you think so — I worry that everyone's going to get nauseous reading all this kissy-poo stuff...seriously, thanks for your comments regarding comic stores. You're lucky to have a shop that treats you so well!

...we received the comic and stuff today. We took the M&C to Josh, which he appreciated. He is also reading your Action Girl comic. I read them both cover to cover — I missed your Action Girl activity page in #3. That is the first thing I look for — no, it's the second. I read the editorial page first. Later — Love, Mom

Okay, Mom, here's another activity page!

Greetings, Citizen Sarah!

My housemate just laid Action Girl #3 on me, and I was mightily impressed. A taste of the bizarre, surreal, superheroiish, and just plain funny. I didn't necessarily like every bit equally, of course, but that's the beauty of an anthology series — a literary pu-pu platter, if you will. My faves in this particular ish were Jessica Abel, Chris Tobey and Patty Leidy. I've seen bits of pieces of Abel's work else-

where, but I guess it's time for me to get off of my butt and subscribe to Artbabe.

Thanks for the info on subscriptions.

BTW, I'm a huge fan of the Space Ghost Coast-To-Coast show, and I greatly enjoyed the two episodes you wrote with Evan Dorkin. (esp "Girlie Show" — utterly inspired lunacy!) Congrats on AGC once again! — Rob Clough

A "literary pu-pu platter"? I love it! Thanks for your comments on our Space Ghost episodes, too (for those of you that don't know, Evan Dorkin & I write for the above-mentioned Space Ghost show on the Cartoon Network — worth checking out even if you don't catch one of our episodes: "Gum, Disease", "Girlie Show" or "Jerk").

Sarah:

AGC is one of the few things I can read once and know I got my money's worth. It satisfies each time. Finally, someone gathers some worthwhile and original art, stories and artists and get them the publicity they need and deserve. The editorial page shows I'm not the only one who's saying "get off your ass and do



# Action Mail

something!" Consumption is good, production is good, but too much of either just throws a wrench into the gears.

Carlos Z

*Carlos sent me another cool drawing — see? →*

Hello Sarah Dyer,

...I did want to write to you about your "action is everything" phrase that you've used at the beginning of the first two issues. To a large extent I agree with the sentiment, though I do have a problem with how you're defining "action". I obviously have no problems with people seeking to express themselves artistically and I'm glad you include social or political goals in your "action" definition...however, I really do think you're wrong in limiting it to these worthwhile goals.

Whether or not you think so, even something like science and technology is worthy of being considered "action". How can you try to shape the world to be better if you don't know how the technology works that is also shaping it? How can you understand man and his place in the universe while ignoring science? [Or woman and her place...]. Okay, this is all kind of heavy and boring but I just think you should broaden up your definition of "action" a bit...

Eric Barnes

Well, this gives me a good chance to clarify what I'm talking about...When I say "action is everything" I am talking about the way you live your life. Achieving a balance between producing and consuming, rather than just consuming. Doing as much for yourself as you can, and contributing to society in whatever way you can. I'm not talking about having a productive career, as I assume anyone who would listen to me already does. I don't mention things scientific because they aren't very good spare-time activities. And I don't consider a person's main job/career/work to be the kind of action I'm talking about. The work I do to support myself may be creative and productive, but I consider the work I do in addition to it (my newsletter, this comic, etc.) to be my Action. Obviously, the amount of time and energy people have varies, which is why I emphasize that you shouldn't feel you have to produce an entire zine or be in a band. Cooking for yourself instead of eating out; helping a friend with their project; making clothes for yourself...there's a lot of ways to contribute. (There are assuredly some people whose career and action overlap — Cynthia Connolly at Dischord Records, for example — but they know who they are and they don't need my advice!)

My girlfriend told me to go out and buy her some "girl comics". I bought Action Girl.

Now I have to go back tomorrow and buy a copy for me. It's good schuff. — "Freed pig"

**More girls need more boy-friends like this.**



Hi Sarah! I just read my first Action Girl. Thank you so much for putting a book out that is so girl-friendly. The market is just glutted with boy-stuff.

My husband runs a comic book store and I want you to know that he definitely supports and plugs the independents as much as possible! I think a big plus is getting more women interested in the product, and YOU are a driving force there! Personally, independents are the only tides

I read — so far I have liked: *Tales from the Heart*, *Ms. Tree*, *Concrete*, and now *Action Girl!* I enjoyed all the Action Girl stories.

Chris Tobey's 'Fan Boy' was hilarious! I see 'em all the time!! I only wish we could attract more 'Fan Girls'! The girls that come into the store buy candy and *ElfQuest*. Now they've got Action Girl! Yea!!!

Carol Seatory's 'All Girls Together' was TOO true to life! She could also have bought a main-stream comic instead of a 'women's mag.' and had the same effect: Whoa, I'd better go get implants 'til my breasts are the size of houses and I'd better start painting on my clothes — and forget about sunbathing in a suit, those tan lines will DEFINITELY show, girls!

Anyhow, just wanted to drop you a line and let you know that you have THIS retailer's wife's support! And I gotta start shopping

for my own comics instead of relying on my husband bringing them home — when he handed me my first Action Girl, grateful though I was, I screamed "number THREE!!!! Where are the FIRST two!!!!"

Nancy Earl in Fairbanks, Alaska

**Retailers, take note. More girl customers = more \$\$.** And if you make your stores more friendly to girls (the least likely people to come into a comic store), the store will also be more accessible to everyone else. By the way, Nancy's husband did bring her home the other issues!

I just wanted to drop a note to Sarah Dyer and tell her what a great publication Action Girl is! As a guy, I really am tired of having to wade through all the covers with the babes in bikinis. Why can't comic book writers create smart, strong women? I'm not a daddy yet (I'm only 24) but when I have children, especially girls, the first thing that they are going to color in is that cut-out doll in AG #2. So, you keep making AG and I promise that my little girls (gosh, I hope I have girls) will read your comic!

Yours, Alan Hom

**I promise! Hey, maybe by then we'll have Action Girl Underoos! At the very least a paper-doll book...**

**Thus ends another issue of Action Girl.** Thanks to everyone else who wrote — sorry I don't have the room to list everyone, but your feedback and encouragement are appreciated more than you know! (Uh...plus my mail is scattered all over my work room right now.) Thanks for all your support and help in keeping Action Girl going! Stay cool and have plenty of lemonade...see you when it cools off in October! — S.

## Thee Action Boys

As everyone knows, most work, comics or not, has the assistance of many people who are often uncredited. Alvin Toffler co-wrote his books with his wife, Heidi; and Jack Kirby got help from Roz. There are several male-type persons who have gone out of their way to help out and support AGC tremendously, and I'd like to give them their due...here is the Action Boy roster (roll call?) ...

**Evan Dorkin** for the daily encouragement and feedback that keeps me & AGC going (and regular soda refills); **Dan Vado** & **Craig Pape** for all their work and support at Slave Labor; **Steve Kongsle** for his great (lettering) assistance to Elizabeth Watasin on her "Susanoo" strip this issue (dig his great effects lettering!); **Mark Yturralde** for help, advice and secret spy work; **David Smay** for "proto-Action Girl" research and for compiling amazing soundtracks for me to work by; **Bill Weisner** for general support and help with my all-girl action-figure addiction (and for making me buy the *Pirate Corps!* Special way back when); and **David Mazzucchelli** and **John Moore** for their general friendship, support and occasional advice.

# More Action Stuff!!



"Team Action Girl" ↑  
"Action Girl on the Moon" →



**Action Girl**

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5. **Action Girl t-shirt #1** — The original "Action Girl on the Moon" design, drawn as a present for me by action boy Evan Dorkin. Purple on white, sizes medium through extra-large. (Note: girls: I'm 5'10" and I may be on the skinny side but even the medium isn't tight on me. If you've got a small frame you'll be swimming. I recommend ordering smaller than you might think you need.) \$13.99
6. **Action Girl t-shirt #2** — the shirt for 1995, with the cool bowling motif — "Team Action Girl", drawn by me. \$13.99



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